



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
Historical Park

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Independence National Historical Park Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

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THADDEUS KOSCIUSZKO NATIONAL MEMORIAL OFFICIALLY RE- OPENS MARCH 21 – SNEAK PREVIEW ON MARCH 20

Unique new exhibits include international loans from Poland

The newly updated and refurbished Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial officially reopens to the public on Saturday, March 21st. Since closing in December 2008, the Kosciuszko House has undergone substantial renovation and the installation of new exhibits designed to teach visitors about this champion of freedom. Members of the media are invited for a special sneak-preview on **Friday, March 20**.

WHAT: Sneak Preview of new Kosciuszko exhibits
WHEN: Friday, March 20, **anytime between 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm**
WHERE: Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial
3rd and Pine Streets
Philadelphia, PA

This is an invitation-only Open House for members of the media. Preview tours will be provided and park staff will be available to discuss the new exhibits and answer questions. Camera crews are welcome. Please contact Jane Cowley at (215) 597-0060 to confirm participation.

Polish patriot Thaddeus Kosciuszko volunteered to assist General George Washington during the American Revolution. A brilliant military engineer, Kosciuszko's fortification designs at key battles, including Saratoga and West Point New York, helped secure America's freedom from Great Britain. Inspired by the Declaration of Independence, Kosciuszko later led an insurrection in his native Poland against Russia in 1794. Although unsuccessful, Kosciuszko's valiant efforts to free his countrymen has inspired generations of Poles. The Kosciuszko National Memorial was established by Congress to pay tribute to this Polish patriot and has been visited by over 275,000 visitors since it opened in 1976. The new exhibits will more fully interpret the compelling story of freedom fighter Thaddeus Kosciuszko. Visitors will learn about Kosciuszko's important contributions to the American Revolution, his valiant efforts to free Poland from Russian rule, and wish to leave his estate to free and educate enslaved Africans in America.

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